

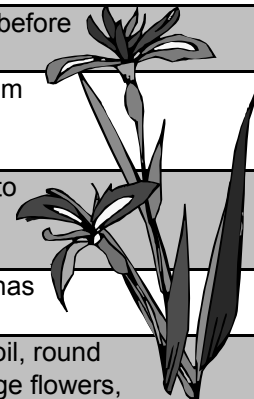
Native Prairie Plants of Southern Alberta Available for Droughtproof Gardening

Plants included in this list are native to the prairies of southern Alberta. They grow well in dry soil and full sun. Cultivated varieties of the species listed are available from garden retail outlets and are being used in gardens in southern Alberta. As indicated in the "Notes", some species on this list have a tendency to spread which may be desirable for large gardens only.



Flowers

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Time	Flower Colour	Height (cm)	Notes
Allium cernuum	Nodding Onion	May - Aug	white, pinkish	10-50	perennial, bulb, strong odour
Anemone patens (Pulsatilla patens)	Prairie Crocus, Pasque Flower	April - June	lavender, whitish	20-40	perennial, soft hairy, flowers appear before the leaves
Aster laevis (Symphyotrichum laeve var. laeve)	Smooth Aster	July - September	bluish purple	40-100	perennial, believed to absorb selenium
Campanula rotundifolia	Harebell, Bluebell	June - September	purplish blue	20-40	perennial, flowers point out or down to protect nectar and pollen from rain, may spread by roots
Cleome serrulata	Bee Plant, Clammyweed	June - September	pink, purple, white	30-60	annual, grows on sandy soil, nectar has strong smell, attractive to bees
Coryphantha vivipara (Mamillaria vivipara)	Cushion Cactus, Ball Cactus	June - August	deep pink, purplish red	<10	perennial, grows in sandy or rocky soil, round stems covered with white spines, large flowers, edible grape-like fruit
Erigeron compositus	Cut-leaved Daisy, Compound-leaved Fleabane	May - July	white, pink, blue, yellow centre	5-15	perennial, grows on rocky soil, compact cushion growth form, finely dissected leaves
Gaillardia aristata	Gaillardia, Brown-Eyed Susan, Blanket Flower	July - August	yellow petals, reddish centres	30-60	perennial, grey-green hairs on leaves help it withstand drying winds, may spread by seed
Galium boreale	Northern Bedstraw	June - August	white, cream	30-60	perennial, fragrant, used by early settlers to stuff mattresses, may spread by roots
Geum triflorum	Three-flowered Avens, Old Man's Whiskers, Prairie Smoke	May - July	reddish purple	20-40	perennial, each plant has three drooping flowers, woolly seedheads
Helianthus annuus	Common Annual Sunflower	July - September	yellow with brownish centre	60-120	annual, grows in poor soil, stems stout with stiff hairs, may spread by seed
Helianthus subrhomboides	Rhombic-leaved Sunflower	July - September	yellow with brownish centre	40-120	perennial, grows in poor soil, seeds eaten by birds, may spread by roots
Linum lewisii	Wild Blue Flax	May-August	purplish blue	20-70	perennial, delicate stems, each flower lasts one day
Liatris punctata	Dotted Blazingstar, Dotted Gayfeather	July - September	pink, purple	20-60	perennial, grows in sandy soil, tufted, glandular dots on leaves
Lupinus argenteus	Silvery Perennial Lupine, Silky Lupine	June - September	bluish purple	50-80	perennial, adds nitrogen to the soil, long flower stalk, poisonous if eaten in large quantities
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamont, Bee Balm, Horsemint	June-September	rose, lilac	30-70	perennial, minty smell, can get powdery mildew, may spread by roots



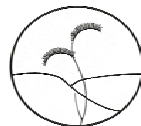
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Time	Flower Colour	Height (cm)	Notes
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	Butte Primrose, Gumbo Evening-Primrose	June-August	white, ages to pink	<30	perennial, grows on clay soil, flowers open at night, fragrant, attractive to moths
<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>	Prickly Pear Cactus	June - July	yellow	<20	perennial, grows on sandy or rocky soil, flattened circular stems with tufts of white spines, large flowers attract bees, spreads to form mats
<i>Penstemon albidus</i>	White Beardtongue	May - July	white	15-30	perennial, funnel-shaped flowers in whorls around stem
<i>Penstemon nitidus</i>	Smooth Blue Beardtongue	May - June	blue at tip, purplish at base	20-30	perennial, thick grayish leaves, tube-shaped flowers in thick clusters
<i>Petalostemon purpureum</i> (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)	Purple Prairie-Clover	June - August	purple, rose	30-60	perennial, grows on sandy soil, very adaptable, deep tap root, adds nitrogen to the soil
<i>Phlox hoodii</i>	Moss phlox, Hood's phlox	April - June	white	<10	perennial, grows on poor soil, forms mats, hard to find at nurseries
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie Coneflower, Long-headed Coneflower	July - September	yellow (purplish) with gray or purple cone	30-50	perennial, divided leaves, cone-shaped flowers, may spread by seed
<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i>	Blue-eyed grass	June - July	blue, purple, with yellow centre	10-40	perennial, grows in moister sites, grass-like appearance, flattened stems, each flower lasts only one day
<i>Solidago rigida</i> (<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>)	Stiff Goldenrod	July - September	golden yellow	10-40	perennial, attractive hairy leaves, not an allegry problem as there is no wind borne pollen, does not spread
<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Soapweed, Yucca, Spanish Bayonet	June - July	cream, greenish white	50-100	perennial, stiff evergreen leaves, large clusters of bell-shaped flowers, pollinated by moths, fruit a large capsule

For more information:

Native Plants for Prairie Gardens (June Flanagan, Fifth House Ltd., 2005),
 Creating the Prairie Xeriscape (Sara Williams, University Extension Press, 1997),
 NatureScape Alberta: Creating and caring for wildlife habitat at home (Myrna Pearman & Ted Pike, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, 2000),
 Grounds for Change - www.calgaryzoo.org/schoolyard_naturalization/index.html
 Wildflowers of Alberta (Kathleen Wilkinson, University of Alberta Press and Lone Pine Publishing, 1999)
 Native Plant Seed Source List (Alberta Native Plant Council, 2003) visit www.anpc.ab.ca
 Guidelines for the Collection and Use of Native Plants (Alberta Native Plant Council, 2002) visit www.anpc.ab.ca
 Oldman Watershed Council www.oldmanbasin.org

Special Thanks to:

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Grasses

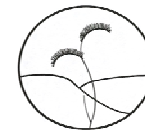
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Scientific Name	Common Name	Flowering Time	Description of Flower Heads	Stem Height (cm)	Notes
Achnatherum hymenoides (Oryzopsis hymenoides)	Indian Ricegrass	May-July	whitish flowers in open, branching, 8-16 cm long panicle	30-70	perennial, tufted, grows in sandy soil
Agropyron dasystachyum	Northern Wheat Grass	June - July	hairy green flowers in narrow, 5-20 cm long spike	40-120	perennial, light green to blue green leaves, may spread by long, creeping rhizomes
Agropyron smithii	Western Wheat Grass	June - August	bluish green flowers in narrow, 5-20 cm long spike	30-60	perennial, grows in saline soil, bluish leaves, may spread by long, creeping rhizomes
Bouteloua gracilis	Blue Grama Grass	July - August	bluish-purple flowers on one side of comb-like spikes, 1 to 3 spikes per stem	10-40	perennial, tufted, forms sod as spreads by short rhizomes
Festusca hallii (Festuca scabrella)	Plains Rough Fescue	June - July	shiny, purplish flowers in open, 6-15 cm long panicle	30-90	perennial, forms large tufts, spreads by short rhizomes, slow to establish, stems purplish at base
Festusca idahoensis	Idaho Fescue or Bluebunch Fescue	June - July	purplish flowers in narrow, 5-20 cm long panicle	30-80	perennial, densely tufted, narrow blue-green leaves
Hierochloe odorata	Sweet Grass	May-August	bronze to purplish flowers in pyramidal, 4-10 cm long panicle	30-60	perennial, spreads by creeping rhizomes, aromatic
Koeleria macrantha (Koeleria cristata)	Junegrass	June - August	pale green to purplish flowers in dense panicle	20-50	perennial, forms small tufts, poor seed germination
Stipa viridula	Green Needle Grass	June-August	awned, greenish flowers in narrow, 10-25 cm long panicle	40-90	perennial, tufted

For more information:

Common Plants of the Western Rangelands
(Kathy Tannas, Lethbridge Community College)

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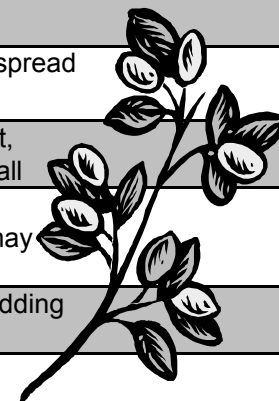


 Grounds for Change

Shrubs

Plants included in this list are native to the prairies of southern Alberta and available from garden retail outlets. They grow well in dry soil and full sun.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Time	Mature Height (cm)	Mature Width (cm)	Notes
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Saskatoon or Serviceberry	May-June	200-500	100-200	white flowers, blue fruit, edible, may spread by root suckers
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> or <i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier dogwood	May-July	200	300	white flowers and fruit, shade tolerant, young stems red, leaves turn red in fall
<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>	Wolf-willow, Silverberry	May-June	200-300	200	flowers yellow and fragrant, leaves silvery, branches with rusty scales, may spread by roots
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	June-August	70-100	90	bright yellow flowers, red-brown shredding bark, five-parted leaves
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	May-June	500	300	white flowers, black cherries with pit, edible
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant	May-June	100-200	150-250	yellow flowers, black or yellow berry, edible, shade-tolerant
<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	Prickly Rose	June-August	50-150	100	pink flowers, fruit a bright red "hip", stems densely prickly, may spread by roots
<i>Rosa arkansana</i>	Prairie Rose	July-August	20-40	20-40	white to pink flowers, fruit a bright red "hip", stems with few prickles, may spread by roots
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Common Wild Rose	June-July	50-150	100	pink flowers, fruit a bright red "hip", stems with few to many prickles, may spread by roots
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Thorny buffaloberry	April-May	300-400	300-400	small yellow flowers, deep red berry, edible, thorns on branches, will grow in poor soil



For more information:

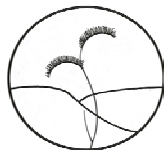
Trees and Shrubs of Alberta (Kathleen Wilkinson, Lone Pine Publishing, 1990)

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